

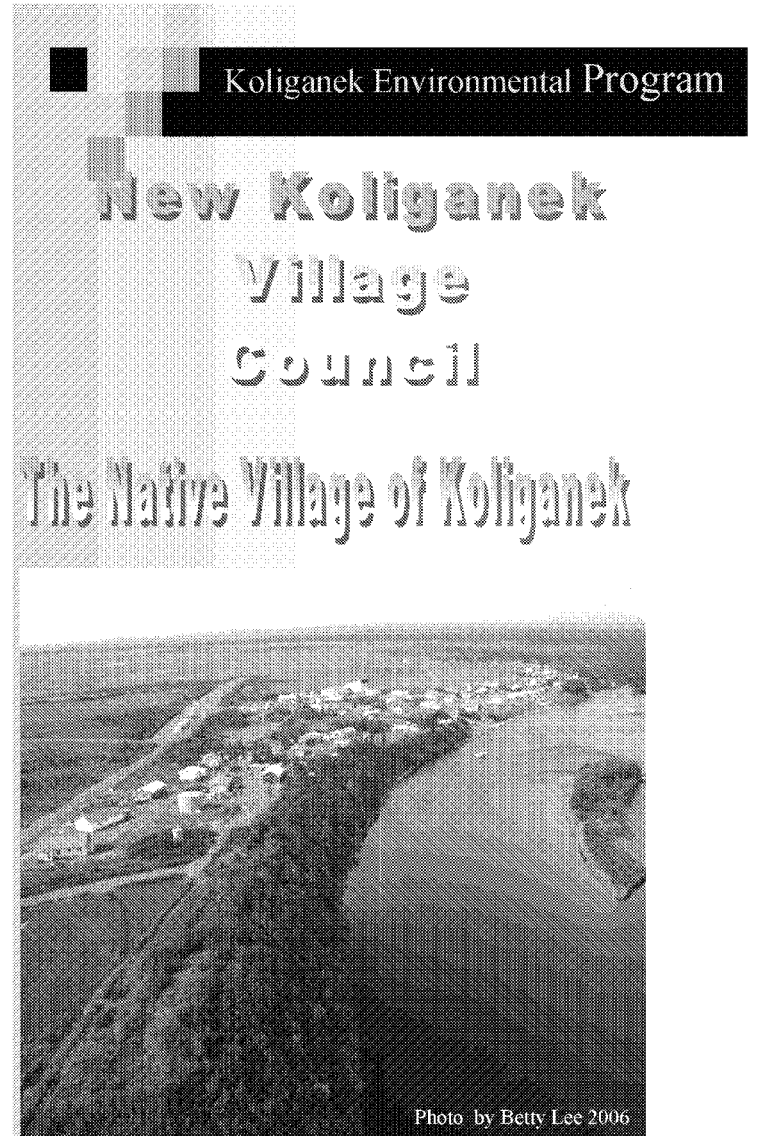
New Koliganek Village Council

Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP)

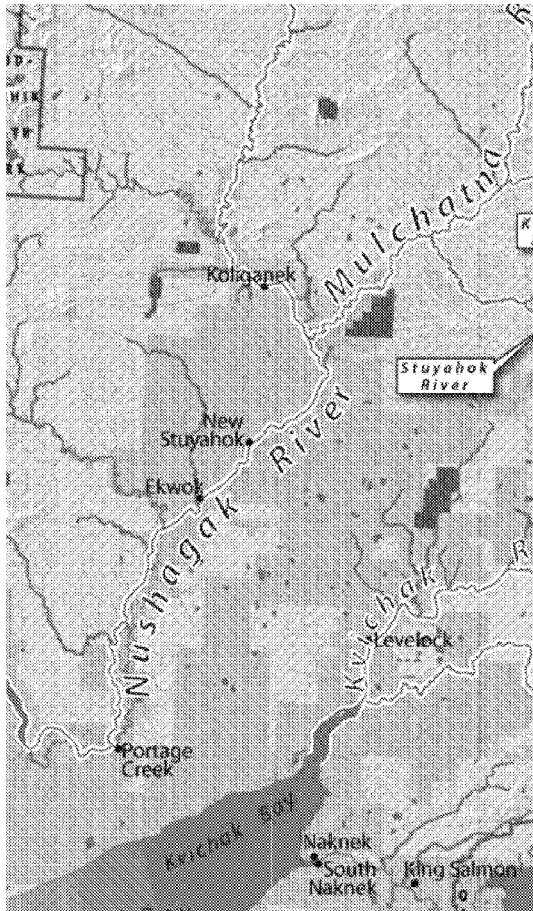
January 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2009
FY08 and FY09

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Koliganek Environmental Program



Nushagak River Villages



Kuligak Environmental Program

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Kuligak Environmental Program

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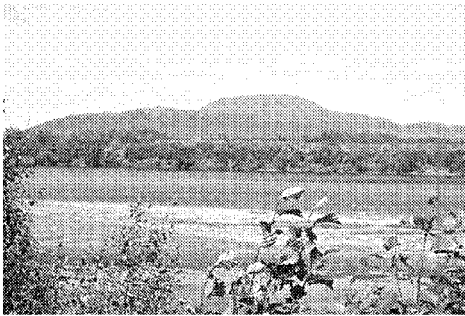
Kuligack Environmental Program

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Kuligack Environmental Program

History of the Native Village of Koliganek



Ketok Mountain located 20 miles from Koliganek, AK

The Native Village of Koliganek is a federally recognized sovereign tribe located on the Nushagak River approximately 75 miles northeast of Dillingham and 275 miles southwest of Anchorage. The first recorded location of Koliganek was on the Tikchik Lake near the headwaters of the Nuyakuk River. The village relocated three times for various reasons and the existing site was established in 1964.

Koliganek is a tribally recognized village comprised of approximately 299 tribal members and the population of Koliganek consists of 171 residents as of the most recent survey. The majority of

the residents are Yup'ik Eskimos. Koliganek means "the village farthest up the river" and is accurately spelled Qaliranecq by the Yup'ik People. The New Koliganek Village Council is federally recognized as the governing body for the Native residents of Koliganek. The Tribal Council consists of five members. Members include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and two Members that are elected for a four year term. The Tribal Council provides overall direction to the staff and represents the interests of the tribal members who elect them. The New Koliganek Village

Koliganek Environmental Program

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Koliganek Environmental Program

Water Quality Assessment Cont'd

increased pollution, and 5) the lower Nushagak receives the greatest amount of commercial recreation use, both in number of permitted camp operations and client user days. This study sampled eight sites from Koliganek to Portage Creek, which covered approximately 80 river miles of the lower Nushagak River.

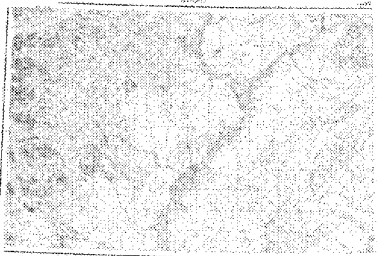
Water quality parameters were selected to effectively assess fecal coliform concentrations for comparison to ADEC water quality standards per the ACWA (Alaska Clean Water Actions) identified actions. In addition, parameters common to most baseline water quality studies were also included in the study to document current

conditions and screen for any exceedances. Selected parameters for surface water included: *Field*-total coliform, E Coli bacteria, Air Temperature, Water Temperature, Dissolved oxygen, pH, Specific conductance, Oxidation-reduction potential, Turbidity, Stream Discharge, and Petroleum sheen or other effects (visual observation).

Laboratory-Fecal coliform, Total Nitrate-nitrogen, total phosphorus, alkalinity, hardness, dissolved metals, and dissolved mercury.

Water quality on the Lower Nushagak River was found to be excellent in the current study. None of the sites sampled in August 2006 or June 2007 exceeded ADEC water quality standards for the parameters sampled.

Map of Lower Nushagak River Sub-watershed (Study Area)



Koliganek Environmental Program

History of Koliganek continued

Council provides all the basic services for the community which are: electricity, water and sewer, fuel, roads, and the landfill. Koliganek strives to balance a modern lifestyle with a sustainable vision for the future.

The Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) started in January 2000. Koliganek's Environmental program has been successful in improving the health and environment of our community. We would like to continue to have an established environmental office in the village so that we can develop, plan, and establish environmental protection programs. This program has allowed Koliganek Village Council to build the basic capacity to administer an environmental protection program.

Koliganek residents are very dependent on a subsistence lifestyle where they utilize the fish, game, berries, and vegetation to feed their families. The community understands the need to address community pollution sources and to protect the surround-

"We want to continue to educate the environmental staff and the community residence to better protect the environment like our ancestors did and keep it safe and healthy for our future Generations," by Bertha Mincher.

ing environment for the betterment of their health. Since the Village became established at its present location, we have witnessed many lifestyle changes, some of which has impacted the environmental health of our community through the toxins found in waste.

We believe education is the key instrument in keeping our environment safe and healthy for future generations, thus we hold community environmental educational meetings. Through school presentations, educating our students remains a high priority because they are the ones who will bear the responsibility of being the future shepherds and steward over our lands to ensure our environment remains healthy.

Koliganek Environmental Program

Environmental Program Management

The Koliganek Environmental Program started in January 2000 with the assistance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) Grant. The IGAP Grant is a capacity building grant that allows federally recognized tribes to utilize funds for building administrative and technical capability to manage environmental issues within the community.

New Koliganek Village Council Environmental Office has proven capable of administering and maintaining the IGAP grant. New Koliganek Village Council will continue to employ an Environmental Coordinator, Environmental Technician, and a Solid Waste Operator.

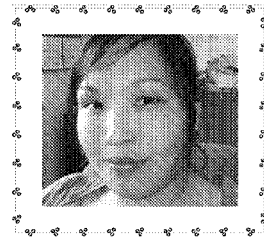
The primary environmental issues at this time include: maintain Environmental Office at present staffing level and attend trainings that will assist staff in administering and maintaining IGAP grant, continue to manage the Solid Waste issues and Solid Waste Facility in the community, maintain existing Community Education and Outreach Program, continue a Community Watershed Based Approach to address Priority Environmental Issues, safe drinking water, development of a Tribal Solid Waste Management Plan, and finally stay abreast with mineral,

oil, and gas development issues in our area.

New Koliganek Village Council will continue to meet EPA's performance requirements for administering the IGAP Grant. The Environmental Coordinator will continue to complete and submit all required reports to EPA. Those reports include: Quarterly Reports, Financial Status Reports, MBE/WBE Reports, and 4 year Close-out Reports.



Grace Ishmook, Environmental Program Coordinator



Delores Larson, Environmental Program Technician

Koliganek Environmental Program

Fecal Coliform & Water Quality Assessment

The Nushagak River is a large, productive salmon producing system in Southwest Alaska. The Nushagak watershed drains extensive area of tundra, wetlands, and forested lowlands and eventually empties into Bristol Bay. The Nushagak River is the key producer of the five species of Pacific salmon and several species of freshwater fish. It also provides extensive habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as terrestrial birds and mammals. Seven Alaska Native Communities and approximately 250 Native allotments depend on the Nushagak River and its tributaries for subsistence harvesting, commercial fisheries, and renewable resource-based economic activities.

Concerns about declining water quality due to increasing pressures to develop state, federal, and Native lands have grown in recent years, as have threats from non-point source pollution associated with community growth. Proposed revisions to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Bristol Bay Area Plan and Nushagak Mulchatna Rivers Recreation

Management Plan increase the potential for access to and development of state lands in the watershed. The number of Native allotments on the mar- ket has risen dramatically in recent years, and parcels are typically purchased for large sport fishing and hunting operations. These changes in land use practices create concerns about solid and human waste and waste water disposal methods at these remote sites.

The lower Nushagak River sub-watershed was identified as the highest priority basin in the Nushagak Mulchatna watershed by the NMWC. It is first priority because of several reasons including: 1) locals use this sub-watershed the most heavily compared to other sub-watersheds. 2) ANCSA corporation lands and the majority of Native allotments in the watershed are located along this river corridor, 3) all five communities (Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, Portage Creek, and Dillingham) are located in the lower Nushagak sub-watershed, 4) community development and inadequate infrastructures have lead to

Koliganek Environmental Program

Subsistence Issues Cont'd

resources in the watershed. The Nushagak Mulchatna Watershed Council identified key plant and animal resources of traditional importance to the people of the region. These resources include the five species of Pacific salmon that return to the watershed, whitefish, other freshwater fish, moose, caribou, waterfowl, and areas important for the harvest of berries and medicinal plants.

NMWC along with staff and scientists from the Nature Conservancy identified probable threats to the watershed in the next 50 years. These threats include: recreational subdivisions, recreational activities, commercial development, community development, mining, roads, and global climate change. None of these threats appear to be

causing serious environmental harm right now, however, some threats like commercial and recreational development are already having noticeable impact suggesting that serious harm could occur if action is not taken in the near future. Other potential threats, like mining, are difficult to assess because there is no history of significant mining activity within the watershed. However, mining exploration is occurring and extensive mining may pose a serious threat in the near future because sizeable deposits of minerals have been discovered in the watershed and could be permitted for extraction.

The community of Koliganek relies upon the fish, wildlife, and plant species of the Bristol Bay region for subsistence foods. The cultural heritage of the Koliganek people is perpetuated mainly through the subsistence lifestyle. The assurance that uncontaminated subsistence foods remain available continues to be of vital importance for the citizens of Koliganek.

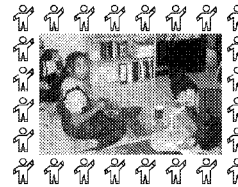


Tatiana Kapatak, 2006

Koliganek Environmental Program

Environmental Education & Outreach Program

Koliganek Community Education and Outreach Program is considered an integral part of the environmental program and key to our success in addressing the environmental issues facing our community. The Outreach Program seeks to increase community input and involvement in shaping the direction and projects undertaken by the environmental program. This includes the following activities: *Poster Contest by 5th & 6th graders*



- 1) Environmental Technician will prepare classroom presentations or activities on a monthly basis to educate school children on environmental issues and ways they can contribute to community efforts to address.
- 2) Environmental staff will conduct two community workshops or open-houses: one in the winter to talk with residents about the program, its successes and direction lined out in the two-year work plan, and to gain additional feedback on
- 3) Organize one or more community conferences to increase environmental awareness and build community support for ongoing projects. Training and education materials will be purchased and agency and organizational representatives and/or trainers will be invited to assist with presentations and act as technical advisors.
- 4) Prepare Environmental Program newsletter every quarter. Other outreach activities will include flyers and designating community bulletin board.
- 5) Environmental Coordinator will continue to maintain a library of resource information that can be used by community residents.
- 6) Environmental Staff will give presentations, when invited, at a local, regional, state, and possibly national level.

issues or concerns. The second open-house or workshop will be to review progress during the year and to gather input on future work plan activities.

Education and Outreach Program makes every effort to involve the entire community in outreach activities. Educating school children and community on environmental issues is our main priority.

Koliganek Environmental Program

Solid Waste and Non-point Source Pollution Prevention

Solid waste and non-point source pollution issues have become an ever increasing problem as the community switched from a completely traditional, subsistence lifestyle that produces very little waste, to one that relies heavily upon supplies brought in from outside the community for its daily needs. Materials such as fuel oils, plastics and batteries become a contamination issue that has long reaching effects upon the community, it's land, air, and water.

Now in the twenty-first century, other pressures are being brought upon the Bristol Bay Region and Koliganek, mostly in the form of an increase in commercial and recreational use by non-Bristol Bay residents, and the upheaval of the Pebble Copper/Gold Mine Project. A primary factor for this change is more attraction to the area for its known fact that the Bristol Bay area has the biggest salmon runs in the world.

Koliganek offers an airstrip and connections off the mainland north of the Nushagak

River. Koliganek has fuel, food, and lodging. As a consequence, the community often has commercial and sports fishermen, recreational boaters and other tourists utilizing our community services such as obtaining fuel, food, and sanitation and trash disposal services.

With the assistance of the Indian General Assistance Program Grant established in 2000 the first steps were made toward significantly addressing solid waste issues in Koliganek. A survey was conducted to determine which environmental issues the community felt needed to be addressed. The main priorities identified by these surveys was the need to address non-point source pollution and reduce the amount and type of waste going into the solid waste collection area. The Koliganek Environmental Program has assisted the Tribal Council in addressing these priorities with the following projects:

Class III Landfill:

The village of New Koliganek's solid waste disposal site is classified as a

solid waste management staff to meet proper safeguards and operation and maintenance of the landfill. The Environmental Coordinator will keep an operating record of the New Koliganek Village Council Solid Waste Facility. The operating record will include a State of Alaska Landfill Permit, Tribal Solid Waste Management Plan, Inspection Records, and a record of the trenches dug.

For each trench there will be a record of the heavy equipment operator who dug the trench, width, length, and depth of the trench, and life of the trench.

Our goal is to extend the life of the New Koliganek Village Council Solid Waste Facility, and to keep hazardous waste from seeping into the ground and polluting ground water.

Subsistence Issues

Land is the gift of our ancestors and the guarantee of our right to continue our subsistence lifestyle. Land is the heart of our culture. Without the land, we are nothing. Harvey Samuelson, Bristol Bay Village Leadership Conference, 2001

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 created local Native Corporations which own most of the land within and adjacent to the 100-year flood plain in the Lower Mainstream and Riparian conservation target area. This area encompasses

four permanent villages: Portage Creek, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek. This target area is most influenced by current human activity and receives the largest amount of recreational and subsistence hunting and fishing pressure. Land ownership within this target area is apportioned among six ANCSA Native village corporations: Aleknagik Natives Ltd., Choggiung Ltd., Ekwok Natives Ltd., Stuyahok Ltd., and Koliganek Natives Ltd.

Local area residents depend on the survival of the natural

one enjoys a barbecue picnic, games, and raffle tickets for prizes are given out to those who participate in the clean-

Recycling is a challenge to accomplish due to the high cost of transportation of materials to a recycler.



Koliganek Environmental Staff are coordinating with Total Reclaim (a recycling center located in Anchorage) to remove a 1000 lbs of free back haul out of Koliganek, as well as neighboring villages.

up.

Items will be palletized and shrink wrapped for shipment to the recycling facility. However, we will need more funds to transport the remaining recyclables to the recycling center in Anchorage. Recycling keeps a significant amount of solid waste out of the landfill.

Batteries and other Hazardous Waste:

Under the past solid waste grant we were able to purchase a connex van to house recyclable items and hazardous waste. Large plastic fish totes, and shrink wrap was purchased to safely handle and prepare the lead acid batteries for shipping.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Koliganek Recycling Program is currently collecting: lead-acid vehicle batteries and household batteries, household hazardous waste (paints and solvents), electronics, aluminum pop cans, and office paper for recycling.

Solid Waste Management Capabilities

Koliganek has hired and trained a Solid Waste Operator to implement our solid waste issues, such as taking care of recycling, hazardous waste, and burnable items, in addition to maintaining the dumpsite and collecting garbage on a daily basis. We will continue to provide training opportunities to the

Class III landfill. The previous landfill was constructed in 1982 and quickly approached its design life. Koliganek received funding from EPA for the 2006 Unmet Needs Project: Landfill Extension and Renovation. Koliganek successfully closed down the old landfill, recycled 50% of the fencing from the old landfill, and built a 160 feet wide (from north to south) by 320 feet long (from east to west) landfill, adjacent to the old landfill.

The landfill has an estimated lifespan of 25 years. Landfills are extremely expensive to build and to close. With this in mind, it is a priority to reduce the amount and type of waste being placed in the landfill in order to extend its lifespan as far as possible. Several important measures were undertaken to reduce the waste stream volume.

Burn Box:

Koliganek instituted solid waste management measures such as installation and operation of a burn box and also a recycling program. Paper, cardboard, and other non-

toxic burnable trash is disposed of in this unit.

Used Oil Disposal and Spill Prevention:

The village council operates a used oil burner, which reclaims heat for the village shop. Used oil and oily rags are disposed of safely in these units. Small oil spills and leaks are a common occurrence in Koliganek. This type of non-point source pollution is especially problematic due to its cumulative nature. The residents of Koliganek use the local river beaches for food resources, therefore, keeping this area clean of contaminants is especially important.

A Spill Response Team was trained April 2008 for New Koliganek Village Council. Each member received 40 Hr. Hazwoper Certificates. Members include Charlie Nelson, Andrew Larson, Delores Larson, and Gust Johnson.

Annual Spring Clean-up:

With the help from the community the spring clean up is an annual event held in May just prior to beginning of summer school break. Every-